

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00
INRE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SMS-01
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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9710
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY
USLO PEKING PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
USINT HAVANA PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (LINES OMITTED IN SUMMARY)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PDEV, PGOV, PEPR, ET
SUBJ: MENGISTU ADDRESS, REVOLUTION DAY SEPT 12, 1978.

REFS: A) ADDIS ABABA 3942; B) ADDIS ABABA 3918

SUMMARY. MENGISTU SPEECH WAS MORE REMARKABLE FOR WHAT IT
DID NOT SAY THAN FOR WHAT IT DID: NO NAME CHANGE FOR THE
PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF SOCIALIST ETHIOPIA; NO
CHANGE IN MENGISTU'S TITLE OF CHAIRMAN OF THE PROVISIONAL
MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL AND OF THE COUNCIL OF MIN-
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ISTERS; NO ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FORMATION OF A SINGLE POL-
ITICAL PARTY ON THE EAST EUROPEAN MODEL; AND NO AMENSTY FOR
POLITICAL PRISONERS. MENGISTU SEVERELY CRITIZED THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND CONDEMNED THE US FOR HAVING MILITARY
FORCES AT GUANTANAMO AND FOR REFUSING TO EVACUATE THAT BASE.
FIDEL CASTRO SHOWED UP JUST AFTER MENGISTU FINISHED SPEAKING.
HIS PLANE WAS DELAYED BY BAD WEATHER. END SUMMARY.

1. MENGISTU'S SPEECH WAS THE LONGEST OF HIS CAREER (110 MINUTES) AND REVIEWED THE EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL SITUATIONS IN PREDICTABLE TERMS. THE OMISSIONS CITED ABOVE WERE NOT UNEXPECTED NOR WAS HIS HEAVY CONCENTRATION ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THE SPEECH SHOWED A LARGE DEGREE OF SOVIET POLICY INFLUENCE. THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC TOPICS WERE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST.

2. ON THE US. "WE AFFIRM OUR UNITY OF STRUGGLE WITH THE PEOPLES OF LATIN AMERICA. IN PARTICULAR, REVOLUTIONARY ETHIOPIA CONDEMNS THE UNITED STATES FOR STATIONING ITS ARMED FORCES AT GUANTANAMO, CUBA, AND FOR REFUSING TO EVACUATE THE BASE. WE DEMAND THAT THE BASE BE EVACUATED IMMEDIATELY...WE SUPPORT THE LEGITIMATE STRUGGLE OF THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO."

3. ON THE PRC. MENGISTU LAUNCHED INTO AN UNEXPECTED LENGTHY DIATRIBE AGAINST THE PRC (THE PRC AMBASSADOR WALKED OUT). MENGISTU NOTED THAT THE REACTIONARY STANCE OF THE PRC HAD BECOME INCREASINGLY EVIDENT. THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE PRC WAS DEGENERATING AS SHOWN BY ITS STANDS ON THE ISSUES OF CHILE, EGYPT, SUDAN, VIETNAM AND ANGOLA. THE PRC WAS ACCUSED OF STIFLING REVOLUTIONS AND LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AROUND THE WORLD AND OF BECOMING THE THIRD INVADING FORCE AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF VIETNAM. THE PRC WAS ACCUSED OF POSING AS A SUPPORTER OF THE ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION AT THE INITIAL STAGE

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WHEN THE PRC WANTED TO GIVE SOME PETTY ASSISTANCE. CHINA THEN WAS ACCUSED OF TRYING TO DIVIDE ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTIONARIES. "NOR DID SHE STOP THERE. BY ARMING THE SO-CALLED EPRP AND SEPARATISTS IN COLLUSION WITH THE CIA, CHINA HAD ALSO BECOME INSTRUMENTAL FOR THE MASSACRE OF MANY OPPRESSED ETHIOPIANS." CHINA WAS ALSO SAID TO HAVE SUPPORTED THE CONSPIRACY OF REACTIONARY ARAB REGIMES TO TURN THE RED SEA INTO AN ARAB LAKE, OF SUPPLYING WEAPONS TO SOMALIA THEREBY "BECOMING ONE OF 13 REACTIONARY COUNTRIES THAT HAD DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY LAUNCHED A CONCERTED ASSAULT AGAINST US." CHINA WAS ALSO ACCUSED OF SLANDERING CUBANS, AND OF TRAINING AND ARMING MERCENARIES TO FIGHT AGAINST ETHIOPIA.

CHAPIN

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